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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q61542

Atsushi MURASHIMA

RECEIVED

Appln. No.: 09/699,435

FEB 24 2004

Confirmation No.: Unknown

TC 2600

Filed: October 31, 2000

Group Art Unit: 2644

Examiner: Unknown

For: SPEECH SIGNAL DECODING METHOD AND APPARATUS, SPEECH SIGNAL  
ENCODING/DECODING METHOD AND APPARATUS, AND PROGRAM PRODUCT  
THEREFOR

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

FEB 25 2004

Sir:

Technology Center 2600

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

1. Canadian Patent Application No. 2,317,969, published March 10, 2001.

A copy of the Canadian Office Action dated November 27, 2003, and Canadian Patent Application No. 2 317 964 cited by the Examiner is submitted herewith. The Examiner's attention is drawn to the fact that the subject matter of the cited reference is entirely unrelated to that of the present application. The Canadian Examiner has clarified that the number of the Canadian reference contains a typographical error and that the intended citation is Canadian Patent Application No. 2,317,969. One copy of this reference is also enclosed.

Atsushi MURASHIMA  
09/699,435  
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

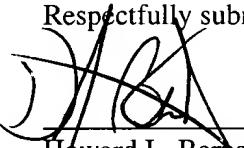
The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing concurrently herewith a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e). No fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed thirty days or fewer from the communication from a foreign patent office and a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d) is attached.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE  
**23373**  
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: February 24, 2004